

Communications

As the end of the diving season approaches faster than many of us would really like it to, thoughts turn slowly towards the lessons that can be learned from our experiences from being out diving. The annual Diving Officers' Conference (DOC) is the forum where the outcome of the Annual Diving Incident Report is first delivered.

The Report covers the diving year from October to the 30th September the following year and now is a good time to think about reporting any untoward occurrences to ensure that they get into the database before the cut off point for the annual report in October. Diver Training has evolved over the years to take account of the lessons learned from feedback on incidents as well as other factors and if we are to continue to improve the safety of our sport making sure (why drag Sue into this; what has she done) of increasing communication channels has to be a means to safer diving. Later this year we hope to have an online system for submitting reports but in the meantime I would encourage anyone involved in, or witnessing, an incident to report them.

Maggie Driscoll

NDC Communications Group Leader

INCIDENT REPORTING

BSAC have monitored and reported on Diving Incidents since 1964. The latest report can be viewed at NDC Diving Incidents Report 2006 and is produced by The British Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC) in the interest of promoting diving safety. It is important to note that it contains details of UK diving incidents occurring to divers of all affiliations, plus incidents occurring world-wide involving BSAC members.

We are often asked if a particular incident should or should not be reported. The guidance below seeks to clarify this but a general principle should be to report any unusual occurrence and allow the Incidents Advisor to decide on its inclusion.

Opportunity to learn

The primary objective of the report is to allow ALL divers to learn from the incidents experienced by others. This removes the necessity for each and every diver to learn by their own personal experience and therefore make diving safer for all. BSAC accepts reports from all sources, including the SAA, SSAC, PADI, MCA, RNLI and managed inland sites such as Stoney Cove. Incidents which are successfully resolved are just as valuable as those which result in injury to people or loss of or damage to equipment. It also does not need to be the person who is directly involved in the incident who reports it as anyone witnessing an incident is welcome to submit a report; we take great care not to duplicate information but would report more rather than less incidents if there is any doubt. If in any doubt please submit a report.

BSAC Insurance requirements

BSAC members, as part of their membership, benefit from Third Party Liability Insurance cover. It is a requirement of the policy that any incident that could give rise to a claim (i.e. involves injury to another person or damage to someone else's property) is reported to the insurers at the earliest opportunity. The easiest way to do this is to submit an Incident Report in the normal way and BSAC HQ will use the information to notify the insurers as appropriate.

In Confidence

It is very important to stress that the Incident Reporting system is never used to apportion blame or point the finger at any individual or group. The published Report does not contain any personal identifying details and simply records a summary of the incident and the key facts that will allow divers to understand the problem encountered and consider for themselves how to avoid a similar situation. The content of the formal reports are not shared with any third party unless the person submitting the original notification gives their explicit permission to do so.

Think SAFE – Dive SAFE

Jim Watson

BSAC Safety and Development manager